

## Peer Run Wellness Center RFA Frequently Asked Questions

DMH/DD/SAS is extending the application due date for the Peer Run Wellness Center to June 15, 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus. (See RFA for instructions). Recipients will be announced at the end of July 2020 with implementation Fall 2020.

DMH/DD/SAS will continue taking question about this RFA at [Brenda.t.smith@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Brenda.t.smith@dhhs.nc.gov) with the subject line "Questions RFA#30-DMH-PRWC-2020" through 5pm on Friday May 8, 2020. A second bidders conference will be held on Friday May 15, 2020. **No questions regarding this RFA will be answered by DMH/DD/SAS after the Bidders Conference on May 15,2020.**

### Will we be able to use some of the funds for utilities?

Funds can be used for utilities just for the space the Peer Run Wellness Center operates in. If the Wellness Center shares space with other services, the agency should ensure that the utilities paid for reflect the space the Wellness Center occupies.

### Will you be allowed to use funds for office equipment such as more computers, copiers, etc?

Funds can be used to purchase equipment for the PRWC only. Any one-time equipment purchases should be reflected as such, and the items purchased must be needed for operation of the PRWC.

### Will the \$275,000 be used for one fiscal year or two?

The \$275,000 is for one fiscal year, with a proposed start date of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

### If you're already set up in a location, can funds be used for work that needs to be done to upgrade issues in building?

No, funds cannot be used for capital improvements per MHBG fund use requirements/restrictions.

### Are there to be designations of 1 rural and 1 urban setting to be awarded or is it just 2 centers with un-designated location at this time?

DMHDDSAS would ideally like to find an urban and a rural site to ensure we are addressing access in rural settings. If DMHDDSAS does not receive an application from a rural area, they will review the submitted applications and select the two best fits for the award.

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### **From this section on page 10, do you intend the MH Block grant guidance or the Substance Abuse block grant guidance?**

The language regarding fund usage is part of the form and covers all potential funding sources. This RFA is funded with MHBG funds only, and the funding standards and expectations for MHBG funds would apply.

### **RFA states eligibility requirement that all employees must be CPSS's. Our peer center has operated with a volunteer (not employed) director whose certification is lapsed but because she does little direct peer to peer support with peer participants but is extremely busy otherwise has not re-applied. Should she re-apply even if she intends to continue directing only until another director may be hired in the event the program is awarded a grant?**

Staff directly providing services need to have their CPSS, indirect staff (like director) must be a peer with direct lived experience and may have either current or lapsed certification.

### **Do all staff have to have lived experience?**

It is preferred that all staff have lived experience, however positions such as an accountant/bookkeeping may not have lived experience or be a CPSS.

### **There are some existing peer operated centers that are substance use recovery centers previously funded at least in part by the SABG. Will these continue to be funded through that grant fund or will they be invited to apply as Peer Wellness Centers?**

This RFA is for MH Peer Wellness centers. It will not be open to SU Recovery centers. The AMH team is not able to speak on what funding source those centers will be funded through.

### **Can an organization that does not meet the COSP requirements apply for the incubator role?**

No, we feel it is important for new and developing peer run wellness centers to be mentored by a peer run wellness center. The incubator must meet the requirements identified in the COSP toolkit. A site that is applying for a Wellness Center only maybe be in the process of becoming a COSP.

### **Do board members of the COSP have to have lived experience with mental health only or can they have lived experience with substance use?**

DMH/DD/SAS will not be getting into that the level of lived experience on the board. Per the COSP toolkit at minimum 51% of board members must have lived experience. This question can also be addressed as part of technical assistance.

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### **Will there be preference given to agencies who have some experience. Will what has been done in the communities be looked at?**

All information and experience submitted in the application will be reviewed. No preference will be given to agencies that have experience over agencies that have no experience.

### **Eligibility of peers for Board of Directors- having experience hiring and supervising peers. Can this be done with an outside agency, such as Daymark?**

Incubator would be helping with technical assistance for the hiring and supervising of staff. Board would not be doing the supervision or providing hiring guidance.

### **Page 8 states the need to already be a Peer operated center. Will the division be looking at already existing centers to expand or are people who haven't started an agency able to apply?**

Anyone that applies for the peer run wellness center through this RFA must be a peer run entity. If an entity is applying that currently does not provide any services, they should have a plan to become a peer run entity. If applying for the Incubator, please see the requirements in section 2.0 on Eligibility.

### **On Page 16 can you clarify whose resume is needed in the application?**

Any staff and/or subcontractors that have already been identified for the project as part of the application process.

### **Role of the incubator- What would the incubator role be as far as responsibility of liability, such as anything happening at the peer wellness center or problems that come up?**

The incubator would help with types of insurance needed and policies that need to be in place. This would be done during the technical assistance as the peer wellness center was getting started. This technical assistance could be done through tele-communications with the 2 wellness centers so they can work together on this.

### **How will outcomes be determined?**

Outcomes will be determined through a collaborative process with DHM/DD/SAS, the incubator and the 2 wellness centers.

### **What name goes on the application?**

The name of the person who is the point of contact for the RFA.

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### **Will the incubator be in charge of Human Resources and payroll for the wellness centers?**

The incubator can start out as HR and payroll and then gradually hand those functions over to the wellness centers. If the incubator is handling payroll for the wellness center it would be coming out of the budget of the wellness center not the incubators budget.

### **What if no incubator applies?**

If no incubator applies DMH/DD/SAS will re-evaluate the incubator eligibility criteria. If no incubator is found after reposting the RFA DMH/DD/SAS will reconvene a workgroup.

### **What if there are no application for the wellness center?**

If no wellness center applies DMH/DD/SAS will re-evaluate the wellness center eligibility criteria. If no wellness center is found after reposting the RFA DMH/DD/SAS will reconvene a workgroup.